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Extensions of country programmes in the Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the second one-year extension of the country programme for Burundi.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves the first one-year extension of a country programme, while requests for extensions for a second year or two-year extensions are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the second one-year country programme extension for Burundi, as indicated in the attached table.

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Extensions of UNFPA country programmes for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Years covered by original country programme	Year covered by any extension already approved	Year proposed for new extension	Extension		Explanation		
				2nd one year	Two years	United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Burundi	2005-2007	2008	2009	X		During the establishment of the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi, the United Nations system merged the Security Council-mandated priority peace consolidation programme with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). This led to the development of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Strategy, which reflects the objectives of the United Nations system in Burundi for 2007-2008. As a result, the United Nations Development Group Executive Committee agencies extended their country programmes for one year, through 2008. This was based on the assumption that the poverty reduction strategy paper would cover the period 2006-2008.	The signing of the peace accord in September 2006 led to a peace consolidation phase. Security Council resolution 1719 established the Integrated United Nations Office in Burundi in January 2007 to assist the peace process. The Government drew up a priority peace consolidation programme (2007-2008), which was endorsed by the Peacebuilding Commission and funded by the Peacebuilding Fund.	In order to align its country programme with the UNDAF process, UNFPA seeks to extend the country programme by an additional year, 2009. The UNFPA country programme will continue to focus on: (a) reproductive health, emphasizing youth and life skills, and safe motherhood, including the prevention and care of obstetric fistula and the promotion of birth spacing. The programme will continue to serve populations that have been dispersed and demobilized, as well as vulnerable communities.

Country	Years covered by original country programme	Year covered by any extension already approved	Year(s) proposed for new extension	Extension		Explanation		
						United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
						However, the Government extended the period of the poverty reduction strategy paper through 2009. As a result, the Government and the United Nations decided to extend the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Support Strategy through 2009, and begin the planning process for the next UNDAF in 2008. This necessitated an additional extension of one year for the country programme.	The implementation of the country programme has been slower than usual, because of setbacks to the peace accord and political difficulties that delayed the peace consolidation and development processes.	(b) population and development, with a focus on analysing data from the population census (to be undertaken in 2008), and building capacity in national statistical services; and (c) gender, by supporting a joint programme for the medical care of victims of gender-based violence. The joint programme will also provide integrated care, including counselling; seek to prevent gender-based violence; and strengthen the capacity of women as peacebuilding agents.